



Considerations for Livestock Judging Tours



Livestock judging tours present a risk for spread of disease from participant's farms to the host farm and from the host farm back to participant's farms. However, adhering to the following recommendations can decrease this risk significantly. Educating hosts and participants about diseases and means of transmission is suggested. More detailed Information can be found on the NYSCHAP web site at <http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu>.

Leader/Coordinator of Tour

- ★ Educate yourself and participants about livestock infectious diseases and how they are transmitted.
- ★ Judging tour assistants follow written registration protocols and biosecurity measures listed below.
- ★ All participants must register in writing. Keep record of participants for at least one month after the event. See suggested template.
- ★ Ensure that all participants have not returned from a foreign country within five days of the tour.
- ★ Coordinate with host farm to have plastic boots available for yourself and participants. Boots are available from farm supply catalogs such as Nasco (www.nasco.com).

Participants

- ★ Let leader know if you have traveled in a foreign country within five days prior to the tour.
- ★ Wear clean clothes and footwear to the tour. Do not wear clothes that you have worn on your home farm. Bring a change of clothes and footwear.
- ★ Wear protective footwear on the host farm. Use plastic boots provided by the leader or host farm.
- ★ Do not walk through feed manger.
- ★ Limit contact with host farm animals and do not interact with youngstock.
- ★ Stay as far away from manure as possible. Change outer clothing and footwear before going to another farm. If returning to home farm change clothing and footwear before working with home herd.
- ★ Wash hands before leaving farm.
- ★ Do not play with farm dogs and cats. Vaccination and disease status may be unknown and may cause a human health hazard.
- ★ Present a good image to the host farm through proper personal hygiene.

Host Farms

- ★ Have animals used for judging separate from the remainder of the herd in a clean dry environment.
- ★ Provide plastic boots for participants.
- ★ Provide designated parking areas away from the barns. Consider parking on the side of the road.
- ★ Keep participants away from feed, manure and youngstock.
- ★ Provide an area for participants to wash hands and discard plastic boots after the tour is done.
- ★ Judge animals on site. If multiple farms animal are used it is highly recommended that participants travel from farm to farm using biosecurity measures outlined above.
- ★ If judging different aged animal groups start with youngest group.

For more information about biosecurity contact the New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program at 607-255-8202 or <http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu>.

